AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A device for applying torque to a wire, comprising:

a body portion having a U-shaped channel with an opening that extends along an entire length of the body portion ~~and a first engagement surface within the channel~~;

a tongue supported in the U-shaped channel including a first engagement surface positioned above a bottom surface of the U-shaped channel;

a U-shaped slider that is longitudinally slideable within the channel of the body portion ~~so that the channel in the body portion remains open~~, the U-shaped slider having a closed end that forms a second engagement surface that ~~compresses~~ receives a wire that is inserted in the channel and compresses the wire against the first engagement surface of the tongue so that rotation of the body portion applies torque to the wire.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The device of Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the closed end of the U-shaped slider and the tongue include angled cooperating surfaces.

5. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the body portion has a grip enhancing mechanism.

6. (Original) The device of Claim 5, wherein the grip enhancing mechanism comprises one or more ridges on the exterior of the body portion.

7-9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently amended) A wire torquing device, comprising:

a body having an open U-shaped channel extending along an entire length thereof in which a wire can be fitted; and

a slider that remains in the U-shaped channel as a wire is fitted along the length of the channel and is movable longitudinally within the ~~body that includes~~ channel, the slider including an engagement surface that secures the wire~~, wherein the wire can be secured in the body without removing the slider from the body~~ as the slider is moved longitudinally in the channel.

11. (Currently amended) The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the slider includes a channel in which the wire can be fitted and the U-shaped channel in the body has a tongue that cooperates with the channel on the slider to secure the wire.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the slider moves in a slot within the body such that movement of the slider in the slot forces the engagement surface of the slider toward a side wall of the channel in the body.

14. (Withdrawn) A side loading guidewire torquing device comprising:

a body portion made of a compressible material having a channel extending along a length thereof in which a guidewire can be fitted, the body having a taper such that one portion of the body has a smaller diameter than another portion; and

a ring fitted over the outside of the body and movable along the length thereof such that movement of the ring toward a portion of the body portion having a larger diameter compresses the channel in order to secure the guidewire therein.

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15. (Withdrawn) The side loading guidewire torquing device of Claim 14, wherein the ring has an opening that is movable out of alignment with the slot in the body portion to secure the guidewire in the channel.

16. (Withdrawn) A guidewire torquing device, comprising:

a body portion having a first section and a second section joined by a flexible hinge integrally formed along a common edge of the first and second sections;

a channel in the first and second sections in which the guidewire is inserted; and

means in the channels for engaging the guidewire and imparting one or more curves to the guidewire such that turning the body portion imparts torque to the guidewire.

17. (Withdrawn) The guidewire torquing device of Claim 16, wherein the means for engaging the guidewire comprises cooperating curved channels on the first and second sections.

18. (Withdrawn) The guidewire torquing device of Claim 16, further comprising a clip into which coils of the guidewire can be secured.

19. (Withdrawn) A side loading guidewire torquing device, comprising:

a body portion having a top section and a bottom section joined by a flexible hinge that extends along a length of a common edge of the top and bottom sections; and

a channel in the top and bottom sections into which a guidewire is placed and an elastomeric grip enhancing strip in the channel to increase the grip of the guidewire when the top section is closed over the bottom section.

20. (Currently amended) The wire torquing device of Claim 10, wherein the open U-shaped channel includes a pair of sidewalls, a bottom surface and a fixed wedge ~~within the~~ positioned on one of the side walls of the U-shaped channel and the slider includes an

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engagement surface facing the wedge that is longitudinally movable towards and away from the wedge to pinch [[a]] the wire ~~in the open channel~~ against the wedge.

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